



## POLITICS: Both Sanders, Clinton to make Inland stops Tuesday (UPDATE)

[STAFF REPORTS](#)

2016-05-21 15:40:13



The Inland Empire will be the center of the political universe Tuesday with Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders holding separate public rallies.

Sanders will host a 7 p.m. event at the National Orange Show Events Center, 689 E. St. in San Bernardino, after holding a 2 p.m. rally at Riverside Municipal Auditorium, 3485 Mission Inn Ave. Doors open to the public at 4 p.m. for the San Bernardino rally and noon for the Riverside rally.

Clinton will rally backers at 5:30 p.m. at the Johnson Family Practice Center, an athletic training facility located at 900 University Ave. on the UC Riverside campus, the campaign confirmed through a news release. Doors open to the public at 3:30.

Additionally, supporters of presumptive Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump [plan a rally at 6 p.m. Tuesday](#) at the Mill Creek Cattle Co., 1874 Mentone Blvd. in Mentone.

Sanders “will discuss a wide range of issues, including getting big money out of politics, his plan to make public colleges and universities tuition-free, combating climate change and ensuring universal health care,” a news release read.

Clinton “will ask Californians for their support and urge them to go out and vote on Election Day,” a campaign news release read. “She will also discuss why she is the best candidate to raise incomes for California families, to lower health care costs and improve education, and to break down the barriers that hold too many Americans back.”

All three rallies are free and open to the public, although people are asked to RSVP online.

James Grant, a UCR spokesman, said officials there don’t know why Clinton’s campaign organizers chose the campus for a visit. But Grant said they are pleased.

“We’re very excited to have a potential future president,” he said. “It’s a reflection of the importance of the Inland Empire as well as the importance of our campus.”

Grant was uncertain how many people the gym can hold.

Security personnel from other campuses are being called in and will coordinate with the Secret Service, he said. He did not know if other local police agencies would be involved.

Some UCR students are already planning a protest. A Facebook page called Highlanders Against Hillary had seven hosts as of Saturday morning.

Earlier in the day, Sanders will hold a rally in Anaheim.

Before heading to UCR, Clinton plans to tour Los Angeles and discuss foster care with Democratic Rep. Karen

Bass before holding an event in Commerce.

Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump on Wednesday is scheduled to be at an afternoon rally in Anaheim and a fundraiser in Los Angeles.

## FIGHT FOR DELEGATES

The Democratic candidates' visits to the Inland region will come about two weeks before California's June 7 presidential primary. Sanders, a senator from Vermont, and Clinton, a former secretary of state, senator and first lady, are seeking the Democratic presidential nomination.

Clinton leads Sanders by 274 pledged delegates. When superdelegates – party leaders and Democratic officials who are free to support the candidate of their choosing – are factored in, Clinton's lead grows to 760 delegates.

While Sanders has picked up a number of recent primary victories, including Indiana and Oregon, he has failed to make a significant dent in Clinton's lead because Democratic primaries award their delegates proportionally based on the number of votes for each candidate.

Despite the gap, Sanders, a 74-year-old self-described democratic socialist, has vowed to campaign until every vote is counted. He has attacked Clinton, 68, as beholden to Wall Street and big business and argues he's a stronger general election candidate against Trump.

Some of Clinton's supporters contend Sanders is harming the Democratic Party and the goal of beating Trump by staying in the race. Clinton has described herself as "a progressive who gets things done," and Sanders' critics say his ideas are simplistic and unfeasible, given that the GOP controls Congress.

California will send 475 pledged delegates to the convention, and Sanders will have to win nearly all of those to have any chance of upsetting Clinton. As a result, Sanders has made a last stand of sorts in the Golden State, opening a number of offices statewide as he holds rallies throughout California.

## FRIENDLY GROUND

Clinton has pivoted more toward a November matchup with Trump. But she isn't ignoring California. Besides holding rallies here, Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, is visiting communities across the state, and he was in Pomona on Saturday.

A Clinton fundraiser featuring California Secretary of State Alex Padilla was scheduled for Saturday night in Riverside. For his part, Sanders made an informal trip to the Coachella Valley a few days ago.

Clinton and Sanders will find a politically receptive climate in Riverside. Democratic registered voters outnumber Republicans 39 percent to 35 percent, and the city's congressman, Rep. Mark Takano, D-Riverside, is a Clinton supporter who has made a name for himself by mocking Republicans on social media.

Forty-two percent of San Bernardino city residents are registered Democrats, providing another welcome venue for Sanders. Earlier this year, Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-Redlands, a Clinton backer, asked Clinton and Sanders to hold a debate in San Bernardino in recognition of the city's resilience after the Dec. 2 terrorist attack that killed 14 people and wounded 22.

The Inland Empire has traditionally been a Republican stronghold. But Democrats have won a number of competitive Inland elections in recent years as the region's Latino population rose.

Staff writers Imran Ghori and Mark Muckenfuss contributed to this report.



## SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS: About 20 hurt when church bus overturns

By DOUG SAUNDERS and TOM BRAY

2016-05-22 15:04:00



A small tour bus carrying 22 members of a Downey church from a retreat in Big Bear overturned Sunday afternoon on Highway 330, sending most or all of the passengers to the hospital – including six with major injuries.

The highway was blocked in both directions until just after 6:30 p.m.

More than 200 women from Iglesia De Cristo Ministerios Llamada Final were traveling in five or six buses from an annual retreat meeting in the San Bernardino Mountains, said Robert Acosta, the assistant to the senior pastor.

The bus that crashed had 22 passengers onboard, said Jeremy Kern of the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

It overturned at 2:11 p.m. on the southbound 330, 2 miles north of the junction with the 210 in Highland, officials said.

### PHOTO GALLERY: [On the scene of the bus crash](#)

"At one point, there was contact between the front of the 2000 El Dorado bus and the rear of a 2013 Nissan Versa," CHP spokesman Juan Quintero said.

AMR ambulances were lined up one after the other to transport patients to various hospitals after they were assessed and treated at a makeshift triage area at the crash scene.

Reports varied on whether 20 or 22 people were wounded. Quintero said six passengers suffered major but non-life-threatening injuries. No one in the Versa was injured.

Several of the first responders said they smelled the distinct odor of overheated brakes when they first arrived on scene, but Quintero said it's too early in the investigation to say what caused the crash.

The CHP's Major Accident Investigation Team is looking into the cause. The bus will be taken as evidence and will undergo an inspection.

Acosta said the bus that crashed belongs to the church, while the rest of the retreat-goers were in four or five rented full-size buses. The church-owned bus is inspected periodically by the CHP and used at least twice a week, he said. To his knowledge, it was in good condition.

"We got the news right after regular Sunday service," Acosta said. "It was unnerving, but we immediately pulled together our key leadership team to see what we could do to help our families."

He and some of the families had gathered at the church Sunday evening to await more information from authorities. As vanloads of people arrived, they were greeted by hugs and then went inside.

"This is unsettling news, but as Christians we believe those who love the lord will have faith and stand

together," Acosta said. "We are hoping and praying that all will be well."

Parishioner Denise Mayorga of Whittier was on one of the other buses, which were ahead of the one that flipped. They didn't see what happened, but they stopped when they learned about the crash.

Mayorga said she talked with a nurse and her husband who were a few cars behind the crash and went to help. The couple said when they got there, they saw smoking tires and a lot of blood.

When the passengers on the other bus learned of the crash, Mayorga said, the prayers started immediately.

"It was terrible news to get. It was nerve-wracking," she said. "We pray that everyone will be all right. We will pray for our people."

Three years ago, a tour bus crashed on the 38 near Yucaipa killing eight people on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 3, 2013.

Witnesses said the brakes failed, causing the bus to careen out of control down the mountain and roll.

The driver - 55-year-old Norberto Bravo Perez, has been charged with vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence. He has entered not-guilty pleas to the charges.

This story is developing. Check back for updates.

## San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

### Controlled burn to begin above San Bernardino middle school

By Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Monday, May 23, 2016



SAN BERNARDINO >> Firefighters will be conducting a controlled burn of the area above Shandin Hills Middle School Monday, San Bernardino City Fire officials said.

The burn will take place from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., according to a [Twitter post](#) by the fire department.

Crews will be working on Little Mountain Drive south of Kendall Drive, according to officials.

Controlled burns help rid areas of heavy brush fuels in an effort to reduce wild fire dangers.

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URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160523/controlled-burn-to-begin-above-san-bernardino-middle-school>

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## San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

# Re-elect SB County Supervisors James Ramos, Robert Lovingood: Endorsement

By The Editorial Board, San Bernardino County Sun

Friday, May 20, 2016



Those who remember the bad ol' days of corruption in San Bernardino County government know that things look quite different today. After a fourth-fifths turnover on the Board of Supervisors and the installation of a highly professional county CEO, the county enjoys a much improved image.

And taxpayers and open-government advocates can rest a bit easier.

The change is certainly obvious to this editorial board, because it's become a very occasional matter for us to write an editorial critical of county government. Critical editorials used to be a

near-weekly event.

That's why we wholeheartedly endorse Supervisors James Ramos and Robert Lovingood for re-election in June.

It's not that things have been perfect under their watch, of course. There was a major hiccup in the past year [that drew our rebuke](#), but that was a case of bad judgment by the CEO, not the kind of corruption we used to rail against. More on that later.

Ramos and Lovingood ran for their seats four years ago to put an end to corruption and rebuild the county's image. And they have done that, in cooperation with the other board members.

Both know full well that an image of corruption is one of the best ways to tamp down economic development, which they both do their best to promote.

Ramos, chairman of the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians and the county's first Native American supervisor, is chair of the Board of Supervisors. He has done well in that role and is running for re-election against token opposition.

Lovingood, on the other hand, is opposed by several electeds and former electeds from his High Desert district. Our favorite among the challengers is Hesperia Councilman Paul Russ.

There's also Hesperia Mayor Bill Holland; Rick Roelle, a former Apple Valley mayor, and Angela Valles, a former Victorville City Council member.

Oddly, Roelle and Valles are husband and wife, running for the same office. They say Roelle's role in the race is to drain off votes from Lovingood to force the incumbent into a runoff with Valles. Strange, but at

least they're up-front about their strategy.

Lovingood's challengers point to an incident involving county CEO Greg Devereaux and the county's former human resources director as a reason to rein in the CEO's authority and return some of his power to the supervisors.

Devereaux hid from the Board of Supervisors the arrest and conviction of then-HR director Andrew Lamberto on charges of solicitation of prostitution in another county. That was a serious mistake by the CEO; supervisors called him on the carpet and Lamberto departed.

Dialing back the CEO's power may be the right thing to do at some future date. Devereaux's contract requires a four-fifths vote to oust him — too much protection for a manager in most counties or cities.

But San Bernardino is not most counties. Problems involving some past supervisors have yet to fade from constituents' minds. It's too soon to shift that balance of power.

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URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/opinion/20160520/re-elect-sb-county-supervisors-james-ramos-robert-lovingood-endorsement>

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## SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTING: Charity will start distributing money to victims' families in June

By RYAN HAGEN

2016-05-20 18:48:12



SAN BERNARDINO – Everyone identified as eligible for compensation from the Arrowhead United Way fund for those affected by the Dec. 2 terrorist attack submitted a claim by Friday and will receive their portion of nearly \$2.5 million next month, according to United Way.

The deadline, originally communicated as May 22, was Friday, by which time everyone had submitted their claim form, said Porsche Nichols-McCoy, director of resource development for the Arrowhead United Way.

"Everything has been going very smoothly," Nichols-McCoy said Friday. "They'll definitely receive (the compensation) in June. The only question is which week."

United Way formed the fund hours after the Dec. 2 attack by San Bernardino County environmental health specialist Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, which killed 14 people and wounded 22 others during an all-day training session at Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino.

The fund has received a few donations that pushed it over the \$2.4 million that was available as of a town hall in March, but the percentage of distribution remains the same. Any additional money donated to the SB United Relief Fund will be divided using those same formulas, and will not be put into the United Way's general fund, Nichols-McCoy said.

"We're really thankful to the community for being able to donate and wanting to help those in need," she said. "And we've heard from many of the recipients that they're so grateful for people thinking of them."

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## RIVERSIDE COUNTY: Post-terror security upgrades advancing

By JEFF HORSEMAN

2016-05-20 15:28:43



Riverside County could spend up to \$1.3 million on metal detectors, video cameras and other security measures in the wake of the Dec. 2 terrorist attacks in San Bernardino.

The county Board of Supervisors this week unanimously directed an ad-hoc committee of county staff to move ahead with a series of security enhancements. Supervisors also signed off on an reimbursement agreement with San Bernardino County for help provided by Riverside County after the attack.

Fourteen people, mostly San Bernardino County employees, were killed and 22 were wounded in the mass shooting at the Inland Regional Center. A husband and wife with radical Islamic beliefs carried out the attack before dying in a shootout with police. Many victims were the husband's co-workers.

Following the attack, public access points to the County Administrative Center in downtown Riverside were closed off, and uniformed security guards at the front entrance screened visitors and searched their bags. Riverside County Executive Officer Jay Orr formed the Security Assessment Committee to assess the county's security needs.

Emergency Management Director Kim Saruwatari discussed the committee's findings with supervisors Tuesday, May 17.

"I think that it's important for departments and all of us to realize that there are simple things we can do to enhance security, like wear ID cards and ask if we see people that don't have ID cards," she said, adding that employees and the public should alert security if they see something suspicious.

The committee recommended spending \$810,000 to upgrade surveillance cameras, \$278,000 a year on private security guards – that money has already been budgeted – and \$30,000 on metal detectors, including hand wands.

Another \$190,000 – all but \$40,000 could be covered by a federal grant – is proposed for an internal communications system that could relay information to county employees in an emergency.

The committee's report hinted at other security measures that could not be discussed publicly. The measures that were made public could cost up to \$65,000 a year to maintain, according to a county staff report.

Supervisor Marion Ashley praised the recommendations. "This is a dramatic change from what we have now, so this is going to take a lot of getting used to," he said Tuesday. "But it's very necessary (with) the situation we find ourselves in."

The county continues to help San Bernardino County government as it recovers from the attack, including providing environmental health services. The attack took place at a function for San Bernardino County environmental health employees.

A memorandum of agreement between the two counties lays the groundwork for Riverside County to be reimbursed for the help it provides. San Bernardino County spokesman David Wert said his county will pay Riverside County out of its own funds and hope to get reimbursed by the state.

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# Muslim group on helping San Bernardino shooters' family: No one should suffer for the sins of others

By Sarah Parvini

MAY 22, 2016, 4:00 AM

**T**he call about the missing man — and [the massacre](#) — came in the early afternoon to the front desk of the office in Anaheim.

Farhan Khan told Hussam Ayloush, the Council on American-Islamic Relations' executive director in Los Angeles, that his brother-in-law, [Syed Rizwan Farook](#), could not be accounted for after someone barged into a meeting at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino and opened fire, killing and wounding scores of people. Khan feared that his wife's brother was among the dead.

Less than an hour later, after Ayloush had urged him to remain calm, Khan called back. Farook was not a victim of the mass shooting, but the suspected author of it, Khan said.

Later that day, Ayloush and CAIR took a step the group had never taken before: It would advise the family of a suspected mass shooter and terrorist. Soon, Khan spoke to a ring of reporters at a news conference organized by CAIR.

The organization received angry calls and critical coverage from conservative media, including Breitbart, which ran a headline asking, “Why is CAIR helping San Bernardino terrorists after the fact?” Others wondered why CAIR was getting involved before it was clear whether others — possibly even other family members — had known of the attacks before they occurred.

Almost half a year after the deadliest attack on American soil since 9/11, Ayloush said CAIR does not regret the decision.

“It is not about what is popular or convenient,” Ayloush said. “We wanted to make sure no one is punished for the sins of others.”

For years, CAIR, which has 30 chapters in the U.S., has acted to condemn terrorist attacks and educate the public about Islam at a time when anti-Muslim sentiment was high. But it also has been a polarizing organization, reviled by critics who accuse it of being linked with radical Islam, terrorism and groups such as Hamas.

In 2007, CAIR, along with hundreds of other organizations and individuals, was named as an unindicted co-conspirator in a case against the Texas-based Holy Land Foundation, a charity prosecutors accused of supporting Hamas. The Holy Land Foundation and several of its officers were convicted in November 2008.

CAIR was not accused of wrongdoing. Still, the FBI suspended relations with the council. Critics also pointed to the organization's sometimes contentious relationship with law enforcement, including the council's battle with the FBI over surveillance of Muslims in U.S. mosques.

Mark Juergensmeyer, an expert in religious studies at UC Santa Barbara, said CAIR's work is bound to be criticized because there is "a strong public perception that being Muslim leads to terrorism." The organization's decision to help Farook's family was understandable, he said.

"I took CAIR's role at that point as a concern that the family not be tarred with public perception," Juergensmeyer said, "that innocent victims not be deprived their liberties because of the acts of a few."

At the time that Ayloush and CAIR were dealing with Farook's family, the FBI and local police were trying to find out whether the family had any prior knowledge about the shooting carried out by Farook and his wife, [Tashfeen Malik](#). Ayloush decided he would ask Khan. Among the questions: Was there anything unusual about Farook's life? Did he have a gun? Was he a member of Islamic State? Some of the questions might have seemed unfairly probing, but they revealed that Khan's brother-in-law had made [the hajj](#), an Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca. Ayloush knew that it would come up. Throughout the meeting, Khan wept.

"I was not playing the role of investigator, but I was looking at what to expect. He went for hajj? OK, great, that's going to be mentioned. His wife was born in Pakistan? Great, that's going to be mentioned," Ayloush recalled. "It was clear Farhan was outraged, angered, shocked by what happened."

“

**This is not a media center; this is a family that actually has been unable to conduct their normal life.**

— Hussam Ayloush, CAIR executive director in Los Angeles

Eventually, CAIR began receiving threatening comments and calls, Ayloush said. He asked the organization's civil rights department to report those calls to authorities.

Throughout December, Ayloush periodically called or stopped by Khan's house to make sure the family

wasn't being harassed. During the first week, reporters stood watch outside the Riverside home, occasionally knocking on the front door. The family would politely ask that they contact their attorney. When Ayloush visited on a weekend, he noticed Khan's children on the floor eating candy.

Their mother told him that they had run out of food because they didn't feel comfortable leaving the home to shop for groceries.

"I said, 'Oh, my God, at the end of the day, this is a family,'" Ayloush recalled. "This is not a media center; this is a family that actually has been unable to conduct their normal life."

He told the family he would pick up a few things from the store — fruit, eggs, milk.

CAIR's legal department also made sure the Khans were being treated fairly and not being discriminated against because of their faith, as they sought custody of Farook and Malik's then 6-month-old daughter.

In the months after the terrorist attack, CAIR has moved onto other issues.

When a Muslim student in Rancho Cucamonga was falsely identified as "Isis Phillips" in her high school yearbook in May, the group sent an email blast and hosted a news conference for the student to address the media. When a top Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department official was caught sending Islamophobic and racist emails, CAIR sent a letter calling for his resignation. And when a group of Muslim women were kicked out of Urth Caffe in Orange County, CAIR expressed its concern that they were removed because of their faith.

But Ayloush said the legacy of San Bernardino still lives with the group, especially in the way it handles the threat of terrorism and the fear it can spark.

CAIR should "be honest about everything: more honest within the community about the fact that we cannot discount the threat of barbaric groups like ISIS," he said. "We must not say it's tiny and it will disappear."

## ALSO

[Fifty years later, the first campus massacre lives on](#)

[EgyptAir crash raises new questions about European airport security](#)

[Afghanistan's intelligence agency confirms Taliban leader killed in U.S. airstrike](#)

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## ELECTION: Get out vote effort is selfie centered

2016-05-20 16:17:14



Selfie sticks are showing up in an odd place – the county elections office.

As part of an effort to drum up excitement about voting in California's June 7 primary, those who cast early ballots at the Elections Office of the Registrar of Voters in San Bernardino County are turning their cellphones on themselves.

Between now and Election Day, early voters can take a "ballot selfie" with an unmarked ballot in a special booth. They're then urged to share the photo via social media.

There's still time for San Bernardino County residents to use their selfie stick, slap on their "I Voted" sticker and smile.

Early voting continues at the San Bernardino office, 777 E. Rialto Ave., from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays and on June 4. On June 7, polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Riverside County hasn't mounted a selfie campaign, but officials are inviting voters to hit the polls.

Voting is at the Riverside County Registrar of Voters, 2724 Gateway Drive, Riverside, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays through June 6. On Saturday and June 4, voting is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. On June 7, polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Riverside County voters also can cast ballots Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at three malls: Galleria at Tyler, 1299 Galleria at Tyler, Riverside; The Promenade in Temecula, 40820 Winchester Road, Temecula; and Westfield Palm Desert, 72-840 Highway 111, Palm Desert.

Monday is the deadline to register to vote in the primary.

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LA Daily News (<http://www.dailynews.com>)

## Registered voters' ranks soar as deadline nears

Ranks of those signing up for June 7 primary soar as deadline nears

By Jeff Horseman, The Press-Enterprise

Sunday, May 22, 2016



Whether it's Donald Trump's unorthodox campaign, the fiery Clinton-Sanders showdown or just general White House-season buzz, Southern California counties have become swollen with newly registered voters ahead of today's deadline to register to vote in the state's June 7 primary election.

In Los Angeles County, more than 304,000 people have registered to vote since April 6, the highest numerical increase in California, according to the secretary of state's office.

In Orange County, more than 65,000 new voters have registered since Jan. 1, according to Registrar of Voters Neal Kelley.

In San Bernardino County, the registered voter count rose by 44,000 between Jan. 3 and May 15, according to numbers provided by the county's elections office.

About 17.2 million Californians — 70 percent of those eligible — are registered to vote, the secretary of state reported earlier this month. Between April 2012 and April 2016, the percentage of Democratic voters held steadily while the percentage of GOP voters fell and the number of "no party preference" voters grew.

Statewide, roughly four in 10 voters are registered Democrats. About 28 percent are Republican and just under 24 percent are unaffiliated with any party.

A federal lawsuit filed Friday by supporters of Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders alleges state officials failed to inform "no party preference" voters they can receive "crossover ballots" to vote in the Democratic, American Independent and Libertarian primaries or that party-affiliated voters can re-register as "no party preference" voters for those primaries.

The plaintiffs include the American Independent Party and the Voting Rights Defense Project, described in the suit as a group aiming to educate voters and boost turnout "for their candidate Bernie Sanders."

The suit seeks to extend the registration deadline to June 7, so that "no party preference" voters can re-register with a party or request a ballot for the Democratic, American Independent Party or Libertarian Party primaries.

In an April column in Capitol Weekly, Paul Mitchell of Political Data Inc., which compiles statistics about voters, reported that more than 850,000 Californians registered to vote between Jan. 1 and March 31, twice as many as those that registered during the same time period in 2012.

The surge has mainly helped an already strong California Democratic Party. Democratic registration grew 185 percent between January and March of this year, Mitchell wrote.

No party preference and GOP registrations rose 65 and 63 percent, respectively, he added.

Despite the boom, the number of registered voters in San Bernardino and Orange counties fell from April 2012 to April 2016, according to secretary of state numbers. Officials in those counties pointed to ongoing efforts to clear the voter rolls of outdated listings and of those who haven't voted in years.

#### On the ballot

Normally the competition for the Republican and Democratic presidential nominations is all but over by the time California's primary takes place. But this year, it seemed as though the state would play a crucial role in deciding who would compete for the Oval Office.

Then the exits of Ted Cruz and John Kasich cleared the way for Trump to become the GOP's nominee-to-be. Bernie Sanders is mounting a spirited campaign for the Democratic nomination, but Hillary Clinton's current delegate lead makes her an overwhelming favorite.

In his Capitol Weekly column, Mitchell wrote that Latino voter registration grew 98 percent between Jan. 1 and March 31. Latino community advocates have said that Trump, who has described undocumented Mexican immigrants as rapists and drug dealers and vowed to build a wall along the Mexican border, has inspired many Latino immigrants to become U.S. citizens so they can vote against him.

This year's primary asks voters to decide who holds local offices, including judgeships and seats on county boards of supervisors. Voters also will be asked to narrow crowded fields for state and federal offices, including 34 candidates seeking to replace retiring U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer.

For legislative and congressional seats, the top two vote-getters, regardless of party, advance to the November general election.

#### Early voting

Voters don't need to wait until June 7. Vote-by-mail ballots have already been sent, and early voting started May 9 at elections offices and other locations.

Compared with 2012, there's more early voting in at least two counties. As of May 13, 252 people had voted early in Los Angeles County compared with 72 for the first week of early voting four years ago.

In San Bernardino County, 443 people voted early as of May 18, said Public Information Manager Melissa Eickman. Just 172 voted early during the same time period in the 2012 primary.

To encourage early voting, San Bernardino County officials have set up a "ballot selfie" area at the elections office where voters can take selfies with unmarked ballots. The selfies can be shared through social media.

California Secretary of State Alex Padilla is crediting Facebook with boosting registration. Almost 200,000 transactions were completed on the state's online voter registration website on May 16 and 17, the same time Californians on Facebook received online reminders to register.

#### Open vs. closed

Voters must update their registration if they move, change their names or want to change their party affiliation. To vote for Trump, voters will have to be registered with the GOP.

That's because the Republican primary is open only to Republican-registered voters. The California Democratic Party allows unaffiliated voters to participate in its primary.

State law gives qualified political parties the option to include independent voters in their primaries. Sanders has fared worse and Clinton has done better in states with closed Democratic primaries.

The state Democratic party first opened its primary in 2004, a move party Executive Director Chris Masami Myers credits with attracting new voters.

"Voters' excitement for the presidential race will help Kamala Harris in the U.S. Senate race (and) Democrats for Congress and in state races," he said. "We're going to work hard to keep every primary voter engaged all the way to November."

Regarding the Republican primary, California GOP spokeswoman Kaitlyn MacGregor said: "California Republicans believe in a system that respects the will of our Republican voters, unlike Democrats who supersede the will of their members through party bosses and superdelegates.

"That is why the members of the CRP have chosen to protect the voice of our voters and why you must be a registered Republican to cast your vote for the Republican Presidential candidate of your choice."

Staff writers David Montero and Martin Wisckol contributed to this report.

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URL: <http://www.dailynews.com/government-and-politics/20160522/registered-voters-ranks-soar-as-deadline-nears>

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By Steve Hunt

[Print Page](#)

May 22, 2016 12:01AM

## EDITOR's NOTEBOOK: It's time to answer the wakeup call

The Victor Valley, maybe even the entire High Desert, has been buzzing ever since a Riverside law firm unveiled its list of the most dangerous cities in California on Monday.

The list only graded cities that have populations of 100,000 or more, so many of the state's most dangerous cities were left out.

Victorville, unfortunately, was not. It came in at No. 9, for a variety of reasons. Is Victorville the ninth most dangerous city in California? No way, I'd say, not even close. I've been around for a while and I've been a lot of places in this mostly magnificent state. I wouldn't put Victorville anywhere near the top 10.

As you may recall, I lived and worked in the San Gabriel Valley for many, many years. I can rattle off several communities there or nearby that I consider way more dangerous than Victorville: Valinda, Bassett, La Puente, Duarte, El Monte, Pico Rivera, Highland Park and Pasadena all immediately come to mind, in no particular order.



Steve Hunt, Editor

You may be surprised to see Pasadena on my list, but you shouldn't be. As nice and upscale as some parts of the city are, it has had a serious crime problem for as long as I can remember. Gangs, murders, robberies, you name it, Pasadena has it. There are significant portions of the northwest part of the city that I never wanted to set foot in and even felt nervous about sending my reporters to. The same goes for the other communities on my list.

And that is just the tip of the iceberg, as we all should know. What about Watts, Bell Gardens, Compton, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hawthorne? Or San Bernardino, large parts of the San Fernando Valley, Santa Ana?

If we're honest, there are many, many dangerous communities in Southern California and I haven't even begun to talk about Central or Northern California or the San Diego area. All these areas have crime, and most have gangs.

So do I consider Victorville No. 9? No way.

That doesn't mean I feel completely safe in Victorville, or anywhere else in the High Desert, for that matter. I don't particularly like being in the Old Town area anytime, day or night. My wife and I have three favorite restaurants on Seventh Street, but we have become reluctant to frequent them at night.

I'm not going to let Hesperia, Adelanto, Barstow or Apple Valley off the hook, either. All have areas that need to be cleaned up, literally and figuratively. All have areas that I consider suspect, if not outright dangerous.

I came home from work a few months ago and my wife had gone to one of our favorite grocery stores on Main Street in Hesperia. She told me for the first time, she felt afraid in the store just by looking around at who else was shopping at that time.

I've been talking about this for a while now, but I'm not sure any of our leaders are listening. We need to clean things up. We need more sheriff's deputies and we better figure out a way to pay for them, whether it's hiking our sales taxes or our leaders making smarter decisions with the tax money we give them.

What do you think happens when your main thoroughfares look like crap? It attracts a bad element. It repels the professionals and the businesses we need to attract so our home values can increase and we can bring better jobs to the region, jobs that will enable our residents to work here instead of down the hill.

The High Desert was severely damaged by the housing bubble, worse than most areas. We're going to have to fight harder and do more if we ever hope to pull ourselves out of the hole we're in. It's going to take vision, something I haven't seen much of from any of our leaders. It's going to take hard work, something that many up here seem averse to. It's going to take our religious leaders talking and praying about it, and encouraging their congregations.

It's going to take people like you reporting suspicious activity or suspicious people to our Sheriff's Stations. It's going to take real estate agents accentuating the positive, like many of our excellent schools, our clean air and our open spaces, and fighting for top dollar for home sellers instead of urging them all to drop their prices so they can make the easy sale. It's going to take our leaders rejecting the temptation of easy money from drugs and prisons and pulling up their sleeves and coming up with better ideas, positive ideas.

I'm not mad that this law firm came up with this list of dangerous cities. It actually might be a good thing, not only for Victorville but for the entire High Desert. Sometimes it takes a wake-up call to shake people out of their complacency.

Well, we've received the call. Now what are we going to do about it?

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## SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY: 27 sex offenders arrested after compliance checks

By DOUG SAUNDERS

2016-05-22 12:00:22



A sheriff's operation to ensure registered sex offenders are compliant in their terms of release netted 27 arrests during a two-month span.

San Bernardino County authorities fanned out around the county making compliance checks as part of a national program known as Operation Broken Heart, according to a sheriff's news release.

Of the 27 arrested, 11 were taken into custody for allegedly violating their terms of parole, four were arrested for allegedly violating the terms of their probation, three were arrested for alleged various narcotics-related offenses and nine were arrested for alleged various misdemeanor and felony warrants, the release said. All 27 were booked into a San

Bernardino County jail.

The compliance checks also found 42 of the registrants had moved from their registered address taking them out of compliance with their terms of release, the statement said.

The operation found 369 registered sex offenders were compliant.

During the two-month operation, authorities checked in on more than 700 San Bernardino County registered sex offenders, conducting 52 probation searches, 132 parole searches and 542 compliance checks, the release said.

The compliance checks verify home addresses of each registered sex offender while also allowing authorities to conduct parole and probation searches of those sex offenders if they're on felony probation or parole.

More than 80 officers participated in the operation, including deputies from the sheriff's Crimes Against Children detail, state parole agents, county probation officers and officers from the San Bernardino and Redlands police departments.

The checks were made at residences in Highland, San Bernardino, Redlands, Loma Linda, Grand Terrace, Yucaipa, Colton, Muscoy and unincorporated areas of Mentone.



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By Daily Press Editorial Board

[Print Page](#)

May 19, 2016 8:26AM

## Our View: Support your local deputy sheriffs

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Our reporters frequently write about the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and its deputies' seemingly never-ending quest to catch all the criminals running around the High Desert. Certainly it must seem like a thankless job at times.

The voters, state legislature and the courts haven't made deputies' jobs any easier in recent years, what with AB 109 ensuring early release of many criminals and Proposition 47 virtually legalizing certain types of drug and property crimes.

But this newspaper got a first-hand look at just how quickly and how well Sheriff John McMahon's charges do their job when the Hesperia Sheriff's Station jumped on the trail of a woman and two men who were involved in beating up one of our photographers last week.

We were frankly amazed at how quickly Capt. Gregg Wielenga's team identified and took two of the suspects into custody. The beating occurred on the afternoon of May 10 and by the next day Hesperia Station detectives and deputies were comparing notes about possible suspects. By May 13 they had a photo lineup for photographer David Pardo to look at and after he identified the man who beat him, deputies put together a request for a warrant for the man's arrest.

By Monday, deputies had conducted a traffic stop of the woman believed to have been involved and placed her under arrest. By Tuesday afternoon, the man believed responsible for the brutal assault had turned himself in after being contacted by detectives the previous day.

While it seemed to us that the station had devoted extra resources to the case, Capt. Wielenga assured us this was standard operating procedure for his deputies. They take their jobs seriously and want to get violent criminals off the street as quickly as possible.

We thank Capt. Wielenga and his deputies for their work in making these quick arrests and hope the District Attorney's Office will be as thorough and efficient as the suspects' cases proceed through the court system.

We also thank those members of the public, and we believe there were at least two, who either contacted the Sheriff's Department or our newspaper to provide information about the attack and/or the attacker.

Law enforcement relies on community involvement to help solve cases and put criminals behind bars quickly. With Victorville landing on a list of California's most dangerous cities this week, it's apparent it will take more community involvement to help deputies continue to clean up the High Desert and make it safe for all.

The biggest lessons learned from the attack on our photographer are: 1) support your local deputy sheriffs and, 2) if you see something, say something.

You can make a difference.

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<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160519/OPINION/160519684>

[Print Page](#)



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By Laren Leichliter

[Print Page](#)

May 21, 2016 5:17PM

## Why San Bernardino County can't fill sheriff's vacancies

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Support for law enforcement came from the nation's capital last week, while your deputies continue to wait for local leaders to value the men and women who protect your family, home and property.

Last week the White House released a report that supported hiring tens of thousands of additional peace officers, saying the benefits were tangible and could prevent as many as 1.5 million crimes annually. The report from the Council of Economic Advisers — the top advisers to President Obama — cites extensive research showing more officers prevent more crime. It sounds like a no-brainer, however, this report helps denote the widespread notion of activists who have called for an overall lessening of police presence.

The United States has about 35 percent fewer police officers than average, compared with the rest of the world when adjusting for size and population, the report said. The report also argues the mere presence of more police officers helps prevent crime, which is far more effective than trying to deter crime with lengthy prison sentences.

With dangerous public safety experiments like Proposition 47 and AB109, California does not have incarceration as a deterrent. This Obama Administration report offers a feasible alternative to help restore public safety in our community: Hire more peace officers.

But this is not an option for San Bernardino County. Why? Because County executives refuse to pay their law enforcement personnel a competitive wage and therefore cannot fill even existing deputy positions.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department presently has 80 funded but vacant positions. This means they have the money to pay the wage — albeit a much smaller wage than comparison counties — but cannot get the bodies needed to fill the positions. More people are retiring and separating from the department each month than are being hired. This dangerous trend means decreased public safety for county residents, despite deputies' best efforts to do more with less. Imagine what could be done with 80 more deputy sheriffs in this county; in your community.

San Bernardino County deputy sheriffs have gone without a raise for more than four years. San Bernardino County deputy sheriffs rank sixth out of seven comparable counties in overall compensation. San Bernardino County deputy sheriffs willingly conceded more than \$28 million in their last contract because the County asked them to help in difficult financial times. The economy is back and the County has logged yearly surpluses as high as \$163 million per year and built an impressive \$450 million reserve.

We have asked for a fair increase but our request has been ignored.

Your deputies, detectives and District Attorney investigators have been negotiating with the County since March 2015; and your sergeants and lieutenants have been working out of contract for more than a year. This ignorance of public safety forced SEBA to declare impasse and send the negotiation to a neutral fact-finding panel. A fact-finding report that outlined several recommendations was given to the Board of Supervisors on April 11. The recommendations ask considerable concessions from deputies and leave them below average pay for comparable agencies. But still, the County has not acted to honor it.

Experienced, talented, dedicated and trained deputies are leaving San Bernardino County in droves.

Recent incidents have prompted duplicitous politicians to feign support by praising deputies at award ceremonies and other highly-publicized events. But deputies see through the lip service and are heading to other agencies where the leaders appreciate their local law enforcement.

One example of obvious lip service was Supervisor Curt Hagman's public criticism of Obama for not making time to visit and thank law enforcement officers following the terrorist attack. Hagman blatantly used deputies as a platform to launch an attack on the president. We certainly did not ask for, nor endorse, Hagman's critical comments. All we have asked from Hagman is to value law enforcement and support a fair, competitive contract. Hagman was very vocal with superficial support for deputies to promote himself politically but he has not been willing to substantively support the men and women who keep this county safe.

The Obama administration has been perceived as less-than-friendly to law enforcement in the past few years so backing in the form of this report was certainly a surprise. Conversely, our local County leaders have been extremely vocal in their praise of law enforcement but have yet to put their so-called support in any tangible form.

Laren Leichliter is the president of SEBA, the Sheriff's Employees Benefit Association, which represents 3,400 public safety professionals in San Bernardino County.

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## SAN BERNARDINO: Fallen officers honored at memorial event

By BEATRIZ E. VALENZUELA

2016-05-19 16:13:02



More than 100 friends, family and colleagues of fallen San Bernardino County law enforcement officers came together Thursday, May 19, to honor and remember those who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Among those attending the Peace Officers Memorial were the families of San Bernardino Officer Bryce Hanes, killed in a crash early Nov. 5, and San Bernardino County sheriff's Deputy Jeremiah McKay, killed Feb. 12, 2013, during a shootout with ex-LAPD Officer Christopher Dorner.

"(The ceremony) allows us to collectively reassure and tell these loved ones, 'Your loved ones did not die in vain,'" said Lt. Paul Williams with the San Bernardino Police Department. "We vow never to forget."

Officers handed single, long-stemmed white roses to the family members of those officers killed in the line of duty.

Command staff of each law enforcement agency in the county, including San Bernardino County Probation, San Bernardino School Police and San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, read the names of those killed within their department.

As they did, two members of each department laid a single right-handed glove at the base of the small memorial statue.

District Attorney Mike Ramos thanked the peace officers and their families for their sacrifices, adding that putting on the badge is a difficult thing to do.

"What they do to protect us is evident every day," Ramos said, pointing to the cumulative efforts by nearly every department present during the Dec. 2 San Bernardino terror attack.

"When everyone was running out, who's running in? Police officers and firefighters," Ramos said.

So far this year, 35 law enforcement officers nationwide have been killed in the line of duty. A total of 128 lost their lives last year.

Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15, which is observed during National Police Week, was created on October 1, 1961. President John F. Kennedy signed the bill into law on Oct. 1, 1962.

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## BEAUMONT CORRUPTION CASE: Why does scandal love the Inland area?

By MICHAEL J. WILLIAMS

2016-05-21 18:13:04



In the last decade, six public agencies within 40 miles of each other in Riverside and San Bernardino counties have been tainted by corruption allegations or convictions.

Just this week, the city of Beaumont became the latest government body to make the news as seven former city employees were charged with misappropriating about \$43 million over two decades.

In previous years:

- A Moreno Valley city councilman was convicted of bribery;
- Four San Jacinto council members pleaded guilty to bribery and money-laundering;
- Five San Bernardino County officials were convicted after being accused of campaign violations, grand theft, misuse of public funds and perjury;
- Four San Bernardino County defendants await trial on bribery accusations;
- A San Bernardino city councilman pleaded built to perjury;
- A trial is pending on a San Bernardino International Airport developer and an associate accused of fraud.

Ron Loveridge a political science professor at UC Riverside, said the high numbers probably correlate with the size of the region and population growth.

"No. 1, there's a lot of governments," said Loveridge, a Riverside city councilman for 14 years and its mayor for 19 years. "There's 50-plus cities and two counties and I don't know how many school districts and special districts. There's a lot of governments, complex and numerous, in the Inland region."

The region's housing boom leading into the recession and the return of a healthy housing market create greater opportunities, especially when the staffs of small cities get overwhelmed by development proposals.

"With growth comes corruption and scandal, as people start taking advantage," he said. "Land-use decisions are important, and they put stress on cities that don't have the administrative infrastructure that provides these kinds of checks and balances."

Executive Director Autumn Carter of U.S. Common Sense, a Mountain View nonprofit promoting open government, said she wasn't familiar with the details of the various Inland Empire corruption cases.

She said it is striking that the cases occurred within such a small radius and that it might be worth her organization's scrutiny.

"It could potentially be a culture of corruption that is regional," Carter said.

Most cases could be prevented if there were proper internal as well as external measures in place, including liberal access to public records and independent third-party watchdogs.

"Unfortunately, when there's access to power and influence, there's also the potential for corruption," she said. "If we create too much incentive or opportunity for government officials to improperly leverage their power and influence, then we've essentially set ourselves up for corruption, and no one wins in that case."

What's intriguing about the Beaumont case, Loveridge said, is that the council allowed itself to become dependent on a private consulting firm to run City Hall for 20 years apparently with little scrutiny while officials associated with the firm allegedly lined their pockets.

"If somebody tells you a story that sounds too good to be true, it needs to be looked at closely," he said. "It's one of the obligations of an elected official to listen very carefully to complaints and questions, and apparently they did not do that in Beaumont."

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## BEAUMONT: Should someone have raised red flag on city's finances?

By ALICIA ROBINSON

2016-05-20 19:24:04



A question lingers in the case of Beaumont's alleged financial malfeasance – just as it does after problems in Bell, or Vernon, or the city of Industry.

Why is it that, for years, either no one saw red flags or, if he did, never reported them? And agencies that could have acted didn't.

Answers may be complex and hard to come by, but experts and observers now are pointing to a number of breakdowns that can lead to shackled city officials standing before a judge and taxpayers asking where their money went.

In Beaumont, seven former top city officials stand accused of 94 felony charges of misappropriating \$43 million in public funds over two decades. Six of the men were arrested Tuesday, and the seventh turned himself in Wednesday. No one has yet entered a plea.

Former City Manager Alan Kapanicas and former Finance Director William Aylward are charged with embezzlement, misappropriation of funds and conspiracy. Former Economic Development Director David Dillon, former Public Works Director Deepak Moorjani and former Planning Director Ernest Egger are charged with conflict of interest and embezzlement.

Former City Attorney Joseph Aklufi faces embezzlement charges, and former Police Chief Francis Dennis "Frank" Coe was charged with misappropriation of funds and conspiracy.

Most of the charges stem from an alleged scheme in which prosecutors say city officials used bond money for public works projects such as building streets and sidewalks while personally enriching themselves and paying back the debt through tax assessments on homeowners.

### WHO'S CHECKING?

The first potential pitfall is that most people think government finance is either too complicated or too boring to spend time on. As a result, few residents look closely at what local officials are doing with their money.

In Beaumont, several residents repeatedly raised questions about city finances for years but have only now been vindicated by the former officials' arrests.

Smaller cities, especially those like Bell with significant numbers of immigrant and working-class residents, may be less engaged with city government, said Max Neiman, a former UC Riverside professor and senior fellow at UC Berkeley's Institute of Government Studies.

Most elected officials don't have a financial background, so they may depend on city officials for information and trust them to make sure the city is following the law.

Riverside City Councilman Mike Soubirous said that, when he took office in 2014, he was faced with an inches-thick annual audit full of complex information. City officials said the finances were in good order, though some in the community told him there were problems.

"There are a lot of people that come into this and they don't want to look dumb," so they're reluctant to ask questions, Soubirous said. "The success of your city relies on how honest and good (staff is)."

Some past Beaumont council members have publicly supported city staff and approved bond issuances they proposed. Former City Councilman Roger Berg has said the benefits of the bond spending are clear from the growth the city has experienced.

So who reviews local government finances?

The short answer is the state Controller's Office, which requires cities to submit annual reports of their revenues, expenditures and bond debt, said Jennifer Hanson, spokeswoman for state Controller Betty Yee.

But with 58 counties, more than 400 cities and nearly 5,000 special districts across the state, those reports are not reviewed in depth, she said.

The state controller can do a detailed audit – Yee's office released a scathing review of Beaumont's past practices in November. Data provided by Hanson shows 259 reports were flagged in 2013-14 for a closer look, up from about 80 that were flagged each of the previous two years.

#### WHAT ABOUT AUDITS?

State law does not mandate outside audits by an independent company, but many cities do them as a best practice to receive a bond rating or because federal funding rules require it, Hanson said.

In keeping their books, the vast majority of government agencies follow rules set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, an independent, private-sector organization that is considered the authority on accurate and transparent accounting.

The standards don't include anti-fraud measures, but it's unlikely any specific rule could stop criminal conduct, board spokesman Kip Betz said.

"We want our standards to result in a fair and accurate representation of the financial picture," he said. "If people are willfully distorting that, I don't think that's something we can address."

Beaumont was audited by an outside firm, Culver City-based Moss, Levy & Hartzheim, from fiscal 2008 to fiscal 2013, according to audits posted on the city website. Officials at the firm could not be reached for comment Thursday or Friday.

Several experts said auditors should look for the kind of problems alleged in Beaumont. And they were surprised the issues apparently went undiscovered or unaddressed for so long.

For example, Yee's review of the city's accounting controls concluded that checks and balances were practically nonexistent, and the Riverside County district attorney's investigation found that city officials were signing checks to their own consulting companies that were paid with city-issued bonds.

Auditors are supposed to look at internal controls as a cue for how deep the audit should go, said Richard Savich, a UC Riverside accounting professor. They're not required to give an opinion of the controls, but the weaker they are, the more financial transactions the auditor should check.

"Professional skepticism is the thing that all auditors are supposed to use," Savich said. "I would definitely look askance at the external auditors and say, 'What did you guys do?'"

A required statement included in a 2003 bond issuance noted that Kapanicas, then the city manager, also was serving as a special tax consultant and Public Works Director Deepak Moorjani was the engineer for the projects for which the bonds would pay. That could be seen as a conflict of interest, but it's not clear whether anyone ever questioned it.

And when an audit uncovers a problem, it's typically reported to city management or the city council.

But auditors can be discouraged from giving too negative of an opinion "because they'll lose the client," said state Sen. John Moorlach, a CPA who was Orange County's treasurer from 1995 to 2006.

Once auditors deliver their report, they may consider their work done.

Macias Gini & O'Connell, a Bay area firm Beaumont hired for two special audits in 2015, made findings including that the city's general fund had been running deficits for several years and that there was no clear payback plan for loans made between city funds, said Scott Johnson, a partner at the firm.

He said the firm doesn't comment publicly on whether anything it finds in audits is illegal, improper or reportable to some other authority.

"We had a contract with the city, we provided reports to the City Council, we made our recommendations to them and it's up to the City Council as a governing body to pursue those recommendations," Johnson said.

## NO CLEAR SOLUTION

Figuring out how to address the pitfalls in government financial oversight may be as complex as how they happen in the first place.

Soubirous, the Riverside councilman, said elected officials need to take responsibility.

"I think it's incumbent on council (members) to really ask a lot of questions and dig down," raising the alarm if they meet resistance or can't get answers, he said.

Accounting professor Savich said ethics training and a whistleblower program to protect employees who report concerns could help, but no solution is foolproof. "You can't think of all the ways people are going to cheat you," he said.

The state could require local governments to make financial data available to the public in a common format, so it would be easier for residents to compare and crunch numbers themselves, said Neiman, the Berkeley fellow.

Moorlach, who warned officials before Orange County's 1994 bankruptcy, said trying to solve the problem with legislation would be seen as the state meddling in local affairs. He suggested the Governmental Accounting Standards Board should look at the issue.

"It's got to be done nationally," he said. "If it's a problem in California, it's a problem everywhere else."

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## BEAUMONT: Steps already taken to move on from scandal

BY CRAIG SHULTZ

2016-05-21 17:14:31



Community Facilities District Since a new City Council and new staff discovered just how poorly Beaumont had been run under previous management, a number of steps were taken to change how the city operates and to find ways out of a budget hole that reached \$10 million.

After City Hall was raided one year ago — leading to this week's indictment of seven former city officials on corruption charges — Beaumont was lambasted by the state Controller over its record-keeping and a look at the books found mountains of debt in a city that looked prosperous and was one of the fastest growing in the state.

Here are some of the measures that the city has taken:

### Completing a complete budget

City Council members said they hadn't seen a complete itemized spending plan in a number of years. That is close to becoming so. The city also is creating a fiscal plan for recovery, looking seven to 10 years into the future.

### Developing a road map to sustainability

City leaders have been given a road map to achieve solvency and fiscal sustainability. Ideas for the plan can be read at <http://bit.ly/1TOc7c8>

### Developing a Capital Improvement Plan

The city is working on a plan that will identify its capital needs for the next five years, looking at major projects and how they will be paid for.

### Creating a panel to watch over city's finances

In an effort to enhance transparency and accountability regarding the city's financial affairs, the council established a Standing Financial Committee to act in an advisory capacity and promote enhanced fiscal responsibility, accountability, integrity, transparency and recommend fiscal and investment policies.

The committee consists of five residents and one business owner.

### Enacting more checks and balances

City Treasurer Nancy Carroll, who was elected in 2014, said there didn't seem to be a lot of rules surrounding the city finances. Money would be taken out of petty cash without being reported and budgets were incomplete.

That's not the case any more. Among the new rules is that anyone involved with bonds has to sign a disclosure that they understand debt issuance and what it means. Also, two people must sign off before money can be transferred between accounts.

### Hiring new consultants

For two decades, many city services were handled by Urban Logic Consultants, which employed many of the men indicted this week.

Beaumont has brought some services back in house, including hiring the first in-house city engineer in quite some time, and bringing in new consultants to help complete the budget and audit the books. A new city attorney was hired, as well, and he's written policies that have changed the way the city does business and runs its public meetings.

### Creating a system to track Community Facilities Districts

There are a lot of questions about where bond money has gone, and a proposal by Councilwoman Della Condon will help avoid that issue in the future, Carroll said.

If approved, quarterly reports will be released showing the status of every Community Facilities District in the city.

Beaumont's population has almost quadrupled since 2000 to more than 40,000 residents, with most of the newcomers moving into newly built homes. Most of those neighborhoods are part of a Community Facilities District, and pay money on top of regular property taxes for roads and other infrastructure. The city sold bonds and the Community Facilities District proceeds are supposed to pay those back.

But there are questions to where some of that bond money has gone and the city had to subpoena bond issuer Union Bank for records.

"It's a really good step," Carroll said of the proposal, which is expected to come before the council soon. "It will raise a level of transparency."

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## San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

# San Manuel buys landmark Arrowhead Springs property in San Bernardino

By Joe Nelson, The Sun

Friday, May 20, 2016



The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians now owns the Arrowhead Springs Hotel.

Cru, formerly Campus Crusade for Christ, owned the 1,900-acre property in San Bernardino's Waterman Canyon since 1962, but it [announced in 2014](#) it was looking to sell the historic landmark for \$60 million.

San Manuel spokesman Jacob Coin said the tribe has been working with Cru over the last year, negotiating the sale of the property, and escrow closed Thursday.

"We're very happy we've got an opportunity to take these lands under the tribe's ownership," Coin said.

He said the land is part of the Serrano Indians' aboriginal homelands, and the natural hot springs that are part of the area's namesake were used by San Manuel ancestors.

"It's been the tribe's wish and dream to have as much of that homeland in their ownership as possible," Coin said.

Coin would not disclose how much the tribe paid for the property, saying both the tribe and Cru agreed to keep the purchase price confidential.

Another reason the tribe chose to buy the property is because its roughly 900-acre reservation in the hills above San Bernardino's northeastern edge is almost built out, and the tribe needs more residential space, Coin said.

"We have a number of young adults turning 21 and looking for places to live, and the existing tribal lands are not capable of accommodating them any more," said Coin. "We just don't have the space anymore to build more home sites."

San Manuel Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena said in a statement the Arrowhead Springs property will provide "adequate space to meet the housing needs for our people in the coming decades."

The tribe has discussed potential uses for the property including schools, parks and ceremonial gathering places, Coin said.

Cru Vice President Steve Sellars said in a statement that as his organization began to outgrow the

Arrowhead Springs property, the need to sell became necessary as it became increasingly difficult for missionary staff to raise the necessary funds to live in such an expensive state. The organization relocated its global headquarters to Orlando, Florida, in 1991.

Although the Arrowhead Springs property had been for sale since Cru vacated in the early 1990s, it wasn't until 2014 when the organization launched an aggressive marketing campaign to sell the property.

"Since our move, we've looked for a new owner who would embrace the community and seek its prosperity. We are confident that the San Manuel tribe will do both," Sellars said in his statement.

The city will benefit directly and indirectly, said Councilman Fred Shorett, who represents that part of the city.

"We weren't getting any tax revenue, with Cru being a nonprofit, and it should go back on the tax rolls immediately," Shorett said. "It will be creating, if not permanent jobs, temporary jobs as they work on it. ... Just having (San Manuel) as partners in our community is a value as far as I'm concerned. They reached out to us saying they want to be a member of the community — as they have been for hundreds of years — and I look forward to continuing that great relationship."

Perhaps the most distinguishing characteristic of Arrowhead Springs is the inverted arrowhead pattern on the hillside behind the hotel, pointing in the direction of the natural hot springs below. Mythical stories abound on the origination of the geographic point of interest.

Local historian Mark Landis noted in his book, "Arrowhead Springs: California's Ideal Resort," the stories surrounding the arrowhead's origin are generally variations of Indian myths about a god shooting a fiery arrow into the hillside to mark a sacred location.

"The area where the Arrowhead Springs property sits is referenced in many Serrano stories and has always been critical to our history and culture," San Manuel Vice Chairman Vincent Duro said in a statement Friday.

In its heyday, Arrowhead Springs was a playground for the Hollywood A-list, a luxurious getaway for celebrities such as Charlie Chaplin, Esther Williams, Lucille Ball, Clark Gable, Elizabeth Taylor and Humphrey Bogart.

It has yet to be determined if the land's history will play a theme in San Manuel's development of the property and if there will be any public facilities on the land, such as a historic museum.

"It will be a little while before we can comment on what the public uses of the property might be going forward," Coin said.

Local historian Nick Cataldo said San Manuel is a good fit for the property, given the tribe's financial resources and historical ties to the land. He said he hopes the tribe does consider the land's history and uniqueness as it maps out development.

"The Arrowhead Springs property is a real gem to the area of San Bernardino, and I'd like to see it preserved that way," Cataldo said. "I'd like to see the property open to historic tours. Riverside has the Mission Inn, San Bernardino has the Arrowhead Springs Hotel. It's very unique."

Staff writer Ryan Hagen contributed to this report.

**San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)**

## San Bernardino's Jewish cemetery vexed by homeless, vandalism

By Joe Nelson, The Sun

Sunday, May 22, 2016



SAN BERNARDINO >> Rabbi Hillel Cohn points out the shrunken bars of soap and discarded plastic water bottles and rags next to a water spigot outside the mausoleum at Home of Eternity Cemetery in San Bernardino.

Rolled up in his hand are pages of a pornographic magazine, also discarded at the oldest Jewish Cemetery in continuous use in Southern California.

With a source of water, walls and an overhang to buffer the elements, the cemetery's mausoleum has become a shelter for the homeless.

"The attractive nuisance is the mausoleum," said Cohn during a recent tour of the property, where workers were installing barbed-wire atop the wrought iron fence spanning the cemetery's southern boundary that separates it from neighboring Pioneer Memorial Cemetery.

In the more than 150 years the cemetery has been in existence, it never needed such safeguards, until recently.

Repeated vandalism of water fountains at neighboring Seccombe Lake Park led the city to cut off the water there, according to city officials. That, according to Cohn, led to a wave of homeless trespassing at the Jewish cemetery, which is owned and operated by Congregation Emanu El in Redlands, where Cohn serves as chairman of the temple's board of managers.

"We've had increasing problems, and the problems emanate mostly from the homeless," Cohn said.

Seccombe Lake Park is the site of the city's Homeless Access Center, where the homeless can shower, get water and coffee, and charge their phones from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

But that is not enough, Cohn says, taking his ire to the San Bernardino City Council on May 16.

"I find the lack of water, a basic human need, to be utterly shameful and disgraceful," Cohn told the City Council.

While he said he understood the city's financial plight, Cohn said he was certain the city and its "rather profitable water department" can find a solution.

City Manager Mark Scott said most of the water fountains at Seccombe Lake Park have been broken

repeatedly by vandals. There are only two places in the park where water can now be accessed, and both are secured at night, he said.

But the city is working to install vandal-proof drinking fountains, Scott said.

"We have an access center in the park to help refer people who are homeless, but the park is not intended for overnight use," Scott said.

"We want the park to be available to the public for the intended park use. ...Our goal is not to turn the park into a campground. We want it to serve as an urban park."

Further complicating things is that the Homeless Access Center, which is now operated by the Santa Ana-based nonprofit Mercy House, may be undergoing a management change.

Scott said the city is on the cusp of drafting a request for proposals from companies or organizations to run the center. Mercy House is welcome to put in another bid, he said.

Since Mercy House took over managing the access center last year, it provided [permanent housing to 191 homeless persons](#) and provided emergency lodging to more than 850 people, said Larry Haynes, executive director for Mercy House.

At Home of Eternity, the water spigot is affixed to a wall at the southern end of the mausoleum, which sits across from the crypt of Rabbi Norman F. Feldheym, the namesake of the city's central library. Feldheym's wife, Marguerite, is interred in the crypt next to him.

The Feldheyms are among many prominent Jewish figures buried or interred at the small, inconspicuous cemetery at 801 N. Sierra Way, including brothers Leslie Irving and Harold C. Harris, whose family started the Harris Co. in the early 20th Century. Their wives are also interred in crypts next to them.

But continual problems of trespassing, vandalism and theft are vexing the small cemetery, which has an annual operating budget of about \$25,000.

In early April, burglars cut the locks of the cemetery gates, then the locks to the concrete equipment shed, stealing roughly \$5,000 in equipment. Burial shrouds were found tossed on the floor, Cohn said.

Local historian Nick Cataldo said Home of Eternity is one of San Bernardino's many historical gems, and he was saddened to hear of the cemetery's ongoing problems.

"It commemorates the Jewish community, starting with the earliest Jewish settlers in San Bernardino," Cataldo said. "I think cemeteries are some of the most important reminders or symbols of the history of any community. These are people who formed the building blocks of the community."

For Cohn, the cemetery is more personal in nature. He came to the area in 1963. The mausoleum was built the year before. He ticked off many of the names inscribed on the bronze plaques.

"I buried just about everybody in here. I knew all these people," he said.

## San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

# San Bernardino Art Night brings hundreds downtown

By Ryan Hagen, The Sun

Thursday, May 19, 2016



SAN BERNARDINO >> After months of work involving eight partner organizations, the chairwoman of the city's fine arts commission only had to wave her hand to demonstrate her point.

"The arts," said chairwoman Dorothy Garcia, "are alive and well in San Bernardino."

Music, paintings, chalk art and more were on display for three hours in downtown, part of the inaugural Art Night, meant to prove that the arts are alive — and so is downtown.

At least 200 came to the event, with many saying they were proud to see the display.

"I've lived here for years, and this is what we needed to have happen," said Dianne Stacey, 71, who came with three family members. "I'm so glad this is happening."

Displays were spread across the downtown area surrounding City Hall, from Court Street Square to the Mexican Consulate.

Although maps were available showing which groups had displays in which building — Cal State San Bernardino art in Vanir Tower and the Guatemalan Consulate, and art from San Bernardino Valley College in the City Hall lobby, for example — some patrons said they didn't know how to find all the art.

Still, the positive feelings were obvious and contagious, said Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers, a member of the San Bernardino City Unified school board.

"There are smiles everywhere," Dowdy-Rodgers said. "This is great news for our city, the way they're bringing so many things together."

Besides artwork from students from middle school to university level, the event also featured three food trucks, part of an attempt to leverage enthusiasm with another downtown event — the food trucks that come downtown for the "[Third Thursday](#)" of every month.

City officials hope to expand the event next year, Mayor Carey Davis said in a brief opening speech.

"We hope this event will become a tradition for our community," Davis said. "Enjoy the arts, enjoy the festival, but most of all, enjoy our community."

By Steve Hunt

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May 20, 2016 12:32PM

## Officials declare Cajon Pass I-15 construction projects finished ahead of schedule

SAN BERNARDINO — Step on the gas, there's no more pain in the pass. The Cajon Pass, that is.

High Desert residents, particularly the thousands who commute to work down the hill, have suffered through nearly three years of uninterrupted construction aimed at fixing one of the nation's worst traffic bottlenecks and providing new pavement with an expected life of 40 to 50 years. But Caltrans and a legion of federal, state, county and local officials declared two major projects on Interstate 15 in the Cajon Pass completed on Friday morning — on budget and 18 to 24 months ahead of schedule.

In reality, there is still a little work left to be done on the \$324 million Devore Interchange Project and the \$121 million Cajon Pass Rehabilitation Project. But that work is relatively minor, according to Caltrans' Devore Interchange Project Manager Jesus Paez, when compared to the major construction milestones already completed.

"By the end of June we should be done with most of the work," Paez said. "Cajon Boulevard we were hoping to be open by today, but we had some delays with utilities. Cajon should be open in the middle to end of next month."

The Devore Interchange Project, which focused on the junction of Interstates 15 and 215 at the base of the Cajon Pass, was necessitated by the Inland Empire and Southern California's rapid growth over the past 40 years. Simply put, there weren't enough lanes to handle the 1 million cars and 150,000 big rigs that use the interchange weekly. When northbound I-15 was squeezed from five lanes to three at Glen Helen Parkway, it created traffic jams that frequently exceeded five miles, especially on Friday evenings. It was gridlock of the worst kind.

"You can't live in Southern California and not have been stuck out here," said Fran Inman, a Majestic Realty employee and member of the California Transportation Commission.

The federal government allocated \$200 million toward the project, with the state and San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) also making major contributions. In reality, taxpayers picked up the entire tab, either through state or federal income taxes, gasoline taxes or San Bernardino County's Measure I, which increased the sales tax by a half cent in order to fund transportation projects like this.

The projects were both so-called design build efforts made possible by Senate Bill 4. Because both the design and construction work are led by one contractor, it enables projects that used to take much longer to be completed more quickly and for less money.

In this case, Atkinson LP was the contractor for the Devore Interchange Project, while Coffman/Parsons shared the contract on the Cajon Pass Rehabilitation Project.

"The Inland Empire is a key part of the transportation system, not only for California but the region and the nation," Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty said. "The successful delivery of these design-build projects means that it will continue to play this vital role, and will do so thanks to the innovative, cost-effective delivery made possible by design-build."

"The Devore Interchange is really a prototype for the nation," said David S. Kim, deputy administrator for the Federal Highway Administration. "We're going to grow by 70 million people by 2045 and most of that growth will be in the West. And we're expecting a 45-percent increase in freight traffic by 2045. We asked the question, 'Do we have what it takes to handle this amount of people and freight?' The answer is no if we do nothing."

"Congratulations to San Bernardino County and Caltrans on this wonderful accomplishment. You really are leading the way."

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Traffic flows on the Interstate 15 and Interstate 215 interchange on Friday after a ceremony announcing the completion of two major construction projects that have gone on for the past three years.

James Quigg, Daily Press

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160520/NEWS/160529973>

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By [Matthew Cabe](#)

[Print Page](#)

May 21, 2016 3:55PM

## Mojave Water Agency VP named new LAFCO chair

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SAN BERNARDINO — The Local Agency Formation Commission board on Wednesday selected Kimberly Cox as its new chair, a move that brings more local representation to cities in the High Desert looking to grow, according to a statement.

Cox, who is vice president of the Mojave Water Agency, has served on the LAFCO board since 2004 and has been vice chair the last three years.

The seven-member board also appointed former Hesperia Mayor Thurston “Smitty” Smith — currently a member of Apple Valley’s Equestrian Advisory Committee — as one of four alternate public members.

San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood has been a board member since 2013, so the addition of Smith expands High Desert representation to three members.

Cox said the appointments are timely for the High Desert region.

“I am pleased that the region is so well represented at this time,” she said. “As we continue to grow, land-use decisions will determine our success. The collective knowledge of the three High Desert members will serve the region well.”

The news comes just two weeks after [Victorville Mayor Pro Tem Jim Cox lost his bid to the LAFCO board following pulled mayoral support led by Apple Valley Mayor Barb Stanton](#).

He told the Daily Press after the May 4 vote, which he lost 15-3, that he was interested in joining LAFCO in order to bring more representation to the High Desert.

But Stanton rallied mayors in Hesperia, Adelanto and Barstow to vote against Cox after Victorville’s City Council unanimously authorized a 30-year notice to terminate its agreement with Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority in April, a move Stanton said would cost Apple Valley millions.

Stanton’s rallying resulted in Lovingood allegedly threatening completion of the Green Tree Extension project, the third and final phase of the larger Yucca Loma Corridor project, which will serve as an arterial connection to Interstate 15 from Apple Valley once complete.

Lovingood denied Stanton’s allegation in a previous Daily Press report.

Rancho Cucamonga City Councilwoman Diane Williams won the LAFCO seat as a result of the political scuffle, but the selection of Kimberly Cox, as well as the addition of Smith, appears to have circumvented concern that the High Desert would be underserved on LAFCO without Jim Cox.

Commissioned by the California State Legislature, LAFCOs are charged with encouraging orderly growth, promoting logical and orderly service boundaries for cities and special districts, discouraging premature conversion of prime agricultural lands to urban uses, and promoting efficient and effective service delivery for cities and special districts.

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<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160521/NEWS/160529939>

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By [Steve Hunt](#)

[Print Page](#)

May 20, 2016 1:54PM

## I-15 projects should help region

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SAN BERNARDINO — A region still struggling to rebound from the effects of the housing bubble and the Great Recession could have used a breather from further pain. Instead, the Victor Valley and its thousands of commuters spent the past three years enduring Pain in the Cajon Pass, in the form of two multi-million-dollar construction projects on Interstate 15.

There were lane closures, speed-limit reductions, crossover lanes, lane splits, lane reconfigurations and even the occasional weekend closures. Commute times were extended, nerves frayed, alternate routes examined.

Worse yet, down-the-hill residents who might have been attracted to the High Desert because of its reasonable housing prices, clean air and lower density appeared to have wanted no part of the construction obstacles.

"The perception of people down the hill has been impeded by the difficulty getting up the hill," Hesperia Councilman Eric Schmidt said.

Now that the \$324 million Devore Interchange Project and \$121 million Cajon Pass Rehabilitation Project are essentially completed, however, Schmidt and other Victor Valley leaders see hope for this battered region.

"This is going to reopen one of our main (economic) drivers, our housing market," San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood said Friday at the ceremony marking the projects' completion. "The High Desert is going to be open for opportunity, for economic development."

Schmidt agreed.

"With few exceptions, transportation is at the hub of all economic development," he said. "We're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars in investment" from these two projects. "That investment will spur interest and not just residential, but commercial and industrial interest."

Schmidt said he and other community leaders will make sure to spread the news about the projects' completion when they attend the International Council of Shopping Center's RECON event Sunday through Wednesday at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

"It'll be an interesting conversation at High Desert Opportunity in October, which for the first time will be off site (in Rancho Cucamonga), and we'll be able to have that discussion," Schmidt said. "There aren't that many minutes (travel time) between Ontario and the Victor Valley. I really think there's an opportunity there" to convince businesses and residents to move to the High Desert.

Victorville City Councilman Ryan McEachron, who also is serving as president of San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), said he was excited first for long-suffering High Desert commuters.

"It's just quality of life," he said. "When we talk about the High Desert, 60 percent of our workforce commutes down the hill. The fact that they can get to work quicker and get home quicker affects their quality of life. They can spend more time with their families now."

McEachron said he also believes the projects' completion will help attract new businesses and residents to the High Desert.

"With all the congestion and traffic we saw the last couple of years" it hurt development and interest in coming to the High Desert, he said. "Now we don't have that problem. I think we'll have companies think about bringing jobs up here and restarting home development."

"I think a lot of them now are waiting until after the election to see the results."

"One of the greatest things is this is just the first step," Lovingood said. "We realize we have a constant requirement of improving our (transportation) corridors and this is a great first step. Last night I left Ontario Mills at 8. Doing 70 miles an hour I got to Stoddard Wells in 39 minutes."

"This is going to add to our quality of life, going to improve our lives, improve goods movement and open opportunities for economic development. Realtors say they're already seeing an increase in people looking for housing."

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<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160520/NEWS/160529970>

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## JOBS: Hiring gains outpace losses; logistics up strongly

By RICHARD K. De ATLEY

2016-05-20 12:42:14



The Inland area turned in a strong month of job gains in April, dropping the unemployment rate to 5.6 percent, according to Employment Development Department data.

There was a gain of 3,100 nonfarm jobs for the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario area between March and April, according to the report, released Friday, May 20. Agricultural hiring was unchanged.

“Decent month,” said Christopher Thornberg, director of the UC Riverside business school’s center for economic forecasting. “We’ve seen volatility in payroll creation. Some months are better than others. This was a good one.”

The jobless rate was 5.7 percent in Riverside County and 5.5 percent in San Bernardino County. California’s unemployment rate was 5.3 percent, down from 5.4 percent in April. The national rate for April was unchanged at 5 percent.

Thornberg pointed to gains in two key areas – couriers and messengers (up 27.4 percent) as well as warehousing and storage (18.3 percent).

“People don’t realize: UPS is a big employer out there; they’ve added 2,600 jobs just in the past year,” Thornberg said.

“And warehousing – that’s a pretty impressive gain. But look, it’s already big out there and they’ve had lots of new properties coming online, so we’re seeing those bigger gains.”

Thornberg said the Inland area’s logistics industry is not tied exclusively to the ports. “In the past year, ports and shipping were down,” he said. “But look at the growth in your area. Go to a Google map and zoom out – you have about 30 million people around you. You see these retailers closing shops, well, that’s because those customers are buying online now and that means a need for more distribution centers.”

Job losses were posted in leisure and hospitality, down 700 jobs and the largest single category payroll reduction for the month. There were 1,200 job losses in arts, entertainment and recreation, offset by 500 jobs in accommodation and food services.

Between April 2015 and April 2016, total nonfarm employment for the Inland area increased by 43,500 jobs, or 3.3 percent. Agricultural employment was up 2.6 percent, or 400 jobs.

Categorical leaders for the year-over-year gains included trade, transportation and utilities, 15,600 jobs, with most of that concentrated in transportation, warehousing and utilities, 8,400 jobs with the rest divided between retail and wholesale trade.

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Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailypbulletin.com>)

## Ontario passes butane ordinance regulating quantities sold

By Liset Márquez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Saturday, May 21, 2016



ONTARIO >>[Ontario](#) has passed San Bernardino County's first ordinance regulating the sale and possession of butane to curb the manufacturing of concentrated marijuana.

The ordinance is in response to a drug trend in the Inland Empire which involves purchasing high volumes of butane at smoke shops, camping stores, hardware stores, and even grocery stores to produce high volumes of cannabis butane honey oil, also known as hash oil, say officials at Upland-based nonprofit Reach Out.

Butane is used in the extraction of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, from marijuana.

"You can take bad weed and turn it into a concentrate that's more powerful," said [Reach Out's](#) director of Public Policy and Prevention Omar Gonzalez.

Not only is it illegal to make marijuana concentrate in the state, using butane poses a significant safety hazard, he said.

"Most butane, once it catches a spark, is very flammable and can cause a major explosion," Gonzalez said.

In 2014, there was an explosion at a makeshift [Muscoy house](#) that killed one man due to a marijuana extraction lab. That same year a drug lab was discovered at a Victorville daycare center capable of manufacturing butane hash oil, said William Seals, Outreach and Policy Specialist for Reach Out.

"The biggest issue is "it's easy to access and easy to buy in bulk to make marijuana concentrate," Seals said

Ontario's ordinance, which was approved earlier this month, requires any refined butane sold in the city be kept in a locked storage or behind a counter.

The ordinance, which becomes effective in early June, also sets a limitation on how much butane an individual may purchase before triggering additional reporting requirements.

If someone were to buy three 300-milliliter canisters, the retailer would have to record the name, address and verify the age of the customer. The ordinance limits the purchase of four 300-milliliter canisters in a single transaction, said Ontario City Manager Al Boling.

By setting the limitations, authorities hope they can deter extraction labs in the city, he said.

Boling said the idea of passing an ordinance was brought to the city's attention by Councilman Alan Wapner, who was concerned about the rise of explosions across the nation from butane extraction labs.

Seals said the substance is inhaled through a personal vaporizer.

In Ontario, there are about 13 smoke shops, not including liquor stores that function as both liquor stores and vape shops, or just straight vape or hookah locations, he said.

The nonprofit said they are starting to see more teens vaping the butane hash oil. In most cases a teen disguises the substance in its vaping pen by mixing it with a scented flavor liquid.

Reach Out is also working with nonprofits Partners for Innovative Communities and the Fontana Community Coalition to expand the ordinance to other cities in San Bernardino County.

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URL: <http://www.dailypbulletin.com/government-and-politics/20160521/ontario-passes-butane-ordinance-regulating-quantities-sold>

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## EDITORIAL: Voters face information overload

2016-05-20 15:54:26

On Nov. 8, voters could face an imposing array of 18 statewide ballot measures, up from just six measures in 2014. That's on top of the races for president, U.S. Senate, U.S. representatives and numerous state and local offices and measures. Although the list could change a bit over the next few weeks, here's our first take:

- Proposition 30 extension. The 2012 "temporary" tax initiative garners about \$7 billion a year in added taxes. It was advertised as temporary until the plunge in revenue from the Great Recession ended. In the highest taxed state in the nation, temporary should be spelled: Vote No.
- Marijuana legalization. This initiative would make pot legal for anyone age 21 or over, allowing taxation by the state and local governments. Although several similar initiatives were considered until recently, the haze cleared and reformers now are backing this one, which is supported by Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom and Facebook co-founder Sean Parker.

"I'm confident this one will pass," Dale Gieringer told us; he's the state coordinator for the California chapter of the National Organization for the Repeal of Marijuana Laws. He said Prop. 19, the 2010 legalization initiative, "was premature," losing 53.5-46.5. "Since then, Colorado, Oregon, Alaska and Washington, D.C., have approved similar initiatives." California's Prop. 215 in 1996 legalized medical marijuana.

- Another \$2 cigarette tax. Part of the schizophrenic nature of the state is that, as marijuana laws are liberalized, tobacco laws are tightened. A new tax of \$2 per pack of cigarettes especially would hurt the poor, who are more likely to smoke, and would greatly increase the black market, as similar tax increases in New York City have shown.
- More gun control. Also pushed by Mr. Newsom, who is running for governor in 2018, this initiative, among other things, bans "possession of large-capacity magazines." John Lott and other gun scholars have shown such bans do not cut crime. Such magazines already are illegal to purchase here. The initiative would make criminals of people who legally obtained such magazines prior to the state arbitrarily determining how many rounds are sufficient for one's self-defense or other use. Criminals still could obtain them in other states.
- Repealing Prop. 227. The 1998 English for the Children initiative mostly banned bilingual education, requiring primary instruction in English. As Heather Mac Donald wrote in City Journal, "California's electorate has been proved right: Hispanic test scores on a range of subjects have risen since Prop. 227 became law." The progress should not be reversed.
- Banning plastic bags. This initiative would affirm Senate Bill 270, which banned plastic bags, but was suspended pending this vote. Any improvement to the environment would be negligible. There also are dual uses for the plastic bags. A 2013 ban in Huntington Beach brought such an outcry from residents the City Council reversed itself in 2015.
- Attacking 'Citizens United.' The Legislature put up this one as an advisory vote for Congress to "use all of their constitutional authority" reversing the 2010 Citizens United decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. For federal campaigns, the decision removed limits on campaign contributions by businesses and unions. Even if this ballot-clogging initiative passes, why should the rest of America care? The Legislature obviously spends too much time in Sacramento and should revert to part-time status.
- Parole reform. This one is tentative. Gov. Jerry Brown and other proponents just this past week gathered enough signatures to put it on the ballot. But it still faces legal challenges from opponents. According to

Ballotpedia, the measure “would increase parole chances for felons convicted of non-violent crimes and give them more opportunities to earn credits for good behavior. It would also allow judges, not prosecutors, to decide whether to try certain juveniles as adults in court.” Recent increases in crime are a national trend, and likely not caused by state reforms, such as Proposition 47. But the higher crime still might make this one a tough sell.

- Death penalty. Two death penalty initiatives likely will be on the ballot. Former “M\*A\*S\*H” TV star Mike Farrell is pushing for complete repeal. In 2012, voters defeated a similar measure, Prop. 34, by 52-48. The contrasting California Death Penalty Reform and Savings Initiative would speed the path to the deadly chamber by limiting appeals. Meanwhile, federal courts still hold up state executions, the last one occurring in 2006. There have been only 13 since 1978. Under state law, if two initiatives on the same issue both gain majorities, the one with the most votes prevails.
- Medi-Cal reimbursements. According to Ballotpedia, for this initiative, a “yes” vote would ensure that Medi-Cal fees would be directed to children’s health” or Medi-Cal services, unless a two-thirds vote of the Legislature changes the allocation. This is a mistaken use of what’s called “ballot-box budgeting.” It’s difficult enough already for the state to properly channel federal Medicaid funds to the state Medi-Cal program, or balance the budget in general, without this added requirement.

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## EDITORIAL: Downshift on ethics

2016-05-17 09:41:20

A couple of years ago, the state Senate was gung-ho to reform its campaign-finance rules after scandals bounced Democrats Ron Calderon, Rod Wright and Leland Yee out of office.

In 2014, the Senate passed a package of reforms to clean up slimy political practices and shore up public trust in the California Capitol. Among those widely applauded reforms was a rule prohibiting senators from accepting campaign contributions from lobbyists during certain periods.

Well, it hasn't taken long for something to come up that most senators find more important than ethics. Namely, an election that threatens some of their jobs.

Last week, senators voted 24-8 to scrap the fundraising blackouts.

Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León, D-Los Angeles, who introduced the motion Thursday, tried to dress up the ethics-rule rollback in terms of fairness.

The fundraising blackout period in question would have begun Friday with the start of final budget negotiations, triggered by the release that day of Gov. Jerry Brown's budget revision. The period would have extended beyond the June 7 California primary, in which 11 of the 40 senators are running.

The state Assembly has no such fundraising blackout. So when a senator faces an election challenge from an Assembly member, the senator would be at a financial disadvantage.

"This is David vs. Goliath, and we cannot take away the slingshot from David," said Sen. De León. Sen. De León's "David" is the senator, never mind the advantages enjoyed by incumbents in all public offices.

Less than one election cycle ago, he said, the blackout "ensures that members of the Senate are solely focused on legislative business during the most critical times of the year."

Now, they're allowed to go back to focusing on the potentially corrupting activity of mixing fundraising with legislative decision-making.

If Sacramento thinks the problem is that the fundraising blackout put senators at a disadvantage against Assembly members, the solution wasn't to scrap the blackout but get the Assembly to institute one.

But that would require a sincere belief in political ethics, which is in short supply in election season.



## EDITORIAL: An overdue streamlining of city government

2016-05-19 16:26:39

The city of San Bernardino reached a critical milestone Monday, as the City Council voted 5-2 to put on the ballot a new city charter. The charter will next be vetted by an outside attorney and two public hearings will follow before being officially placed on the November ballot. The proposed charter makes a number of changes that not only will simplify the governing document for the city, replacing 49 pages with 12, but also reforms city government in a manner that actually makes sense.

Under the current charter, in addition to the City Council and mayor, the positions of city clerk, city attorney and city treasurer all are elected. Overlapping responsibilities, particularly with respect to appointing positions between the mayor and council, have made it difficult at times for things to get done. No other city has a system of government similar to that of San Bernardino.

"The city's charter is far more complex and detailed than is typically associated with a city of this size," explains San Bernardino's Plan of Adjustment. "This results in numerous operational inefficiencies and uncertainties."

The city's charter review committee, which has worked diligently for two years to come up with a sensible alternative, determined a more proper system would be a city council-city manager form of government.

Under this arrangement, the elected mayor and council would appoint the city manager, who would serve as chief executive officer, as well as the city clerk and city attorney. The duties of the presently elected treasurer would be assigned to the finance department.

Phil Savage, chairman of the charter review committee, argued the proposed charter would streamline government and provide a governing document that the public could readily understand. And in its initial form, we agree that the proposal of the committee certainly accomplishes those goals.

Unfortunately, the council majority felt it necessary to add language to the proposed charter to require that the city commit to keeping policing services in-house, effectively tying the hands of future councils who might be interested in exploring alternative means of service delivery.

Councilwoman Virginia Marquez argued the city needed to have a charter-mandated municipal police department in order to provide potential recruits greater certainty of their employment prospects.

Though welcomed by the city's police union, such a move will primarily serve to restrict the city's options in the future. If San Bernardino has learned anything from its bankruptcy, the importance of being open to alternative means of service delivery ought to be one of them.